

From: John Langford
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:22pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I've been amazed while watching the Microsoft vs. DOJ court case. First, I was amazed at how adept the US DOJ's prosecution appeared to be, and then I was amazed by how badly the US DOJ has failed in the penalty phase of the trial. I have studied the proposed settlement in a semithrough manner and I am aware of no clause which will inhibit MS in any significant manner.

I consider the penalty phase to be very important because MS is currently essentially in the position of an unregulated utility monopoly. This is a dangerous enough that I expect the market distortion which Microsoft generates to affect other industries in significant ways soon.

I believe the US experiment with capitolism has been remarkably succesful, and I'm alarmed to see the US giving up on it. If a restoration to a real marketplace can not be achieved, please consider at least regulating Microsoft in some semieffective manner.

-John